

Message Text

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47

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 DPW-01 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 H-01 SS-15

NSC-05 EUR-12 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 PM-03

NEA-09 AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-05 IGA-01 /090 W

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O 261520Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 984

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, ICRC

SUBJECT: ICRC OPERATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

REF: GENEVA 1104

1. ICRC DELEGATE GENERAL FOR AFRICA MOREILLON INFORMED MISSION TODAY THAT ICRC DELEGATE IN ADDIS ABABA GAILLARD HAS BEEN REFUSED AUDIENCE WITH DIRG CHAIRMAN. GAILLARD WAS ASKED TO CONVEY HIS MESSAGE TO DIRG'S MFA. ICRC INTERPRETED THIS AS A STALLING DEVICE.

2. MOREILLON FURTHER INFORMED MISSION CONFIDENTIALLY THAT ICRC PLANNING EARLY APPROACH TO SUDANESE AND SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENTS PER FOLLOWING:

A. IN ABSENCE SATISFACTORY ANSWER FROM ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES AND TAKING ACCOUNT LARGE NUMBER VICTIMS OF CONFLICT, ICRC IS CONSIDERING SENDING A TWO MAN SURVEY TEAM (ONE PHYSICIAN AND ONE DELEGATE) INTO ERITREA FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY;

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B. BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL BE ASKED WHAT THEIR POSITION IN PRINCIPLE WOULD BE IF ICRC (1) SENDS SUCH A TEAM AND (2) IF TEAM IS SENT FROM THEIR TERRITORY.

3. ICRC DELEGATIONS IN CAIRO AND DAMASCUS WILL ALSO BE INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH REPRESENTATIVES OF ELF AND PLF CONCERNING THIS PLAN. ICRC WILL SEEK ADVICE FROM THESE ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNING TRAVEL AND ENTRANCE TO ERITREA.

4. ICRC ALSO INTENDS INFORM GOVERNMENTS OF SUDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA OF THEIR DEMARCHES TO ELF AND PLF IN CAIRO AND DAMASCUS. THE GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED WILL BE SPECIFICALLY INFORMED THAT ICRC HAS NOT MADE A FIRM DECISION YET AND THAT CURRENT DEMARCHES ARE EXPLORATORY AND TO BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL. IN ANY CASE, SHOULD ICRC DECIDE TO SEND A SURVEY TEAM INTO ERITREA, THE COMMITTEE INTENDS TO SO INFORM THE ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES.

5. MOREILLON STRESSED POINT THAT ICRC WOULD MUCH PREFER TO OPERATE INSIDE ERITREA BUT BECAUSE OF RECALCITRANCE OF PRESENT ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE IS FORCED TO CONSIDER OTHER MEANS. THIS REGARD, ICRC HAS NOT RULED OUT POSSIBILITY OF ASKING ADEN AND/OR NORTH YEMEN FOR PERMISSION TO OPERATE THROUGH THEIR TERRITORY.

6. FOR TIME BEING ONLY A SURVEY TEAM AS MENTIONED ABOVE BEING CONSIDERED. LOGICALLY IN DUE COURSE ICRC WOULD PLAN A LARGER OPERATION INVOLVING MORE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL.

7. REGARDING REQUEST BY THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT FOR ARMS AND AMMUNITION FROM USG, MOREILLON OPINED THAT SHOULD THE USG NOT ATTACH A HUMANITARIAN STRING ENABLING ICRC TO PERFORM ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE (PARA 6 REFTTEL), ANY OTHER PRESSURE UPON ETHIOPIANS WOULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE. THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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REGARD, HOWEVER, MOREILLON SAID ICRC HAS OPEN MIND, AND WOULD WELCOME ANY ADVICE THAT DEPARTMENT AND/OR AMEMBASSY ADDIS MIGHT HAVE TO OFFER.

8. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP ESPECIALLY REGARDING ICRC'S "HUMANITARIAN STRING" SUGGESTION. DALE

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